

George Dennett Letter

S350

1869

1folder

Manuscripts & Rare Books Division
Indiana State Library

Finding Aid by: Nikki Stoddard Schofield, January 2014

Biographical Note:

George Dennett wrote a letter to his son Jack from Elizabeth, Union County, New Jersey, on March 7, 1869. He mentions that Tom is dead, and urges Jack to come to Elizabeth. Tom was the husband of Laura McColough and the father of little May. In the 1880 federal census, Laura, age 32 and widowed, was living with her parents, Robert and Sarah McColough, and her daughter May, age 12, in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

John "Jack" Dennett lived in Brookville, Franklin County, Indiana, when he enlisted for the Civil War. He was born in New Jersey about 1838. In 1880, the federal census listed his family as wife Lucretia (called Lu in the letter), age 41; Anna E., age 18; Mary M., age 16; Harriett, age 14; George E., age 12; Lucretia, age 10; Francis, age 6; and Edith, age 2.

George was listed in the Elizabeth City Directory of 1868 as a paper hanger residing at 156 Union Street. He died in May 1880 of kidney disease and old age in Elizabeth Ward 5.

Source:

Information Found within Collection and Ancestry.com accessed on 1/16/2014.

Scope and Content:

These two sheets are Xerox copies of the original four-page, hand-written letter of George Dennett to his son Jack. George explains that the dentist was responsible for Tom's death because he applied muriatic acid to Tommy's teeth and lanced his gums. "I believe he was the cause of his death and others besides me. I would like to choke him."

George gives Jack the recipe for pudding which includes one cup of each of the following: raisins, beef suet chopped fine, sweet milk, and molasses, then add as much flour to make it "pretty stiff & boil four hours." He asks his son how Lu (Lucretia) liked the huckleberries, from which they made a "splendid" pie.

He mentions that "we have got a new President and I suppose they will soon begin to find some fault with him as they do with all that get in office." He hopes to see his son this fall.

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Collection Inventory Item Listing:

Date	
3-7-1869	Letter to Jack from his father George Dennett

Collection Information:

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